

21 October 1970

SPECIAL REPORT

SUBJECT: Three Considerations: Allende After the Inauguration

I. Chile as a Soviet Satellite

Immediately following the inauguration Allende will be confronted with major economic, political and military pressures inhibiting his ability to move Chile into the Soviet camp. Although Allende espouses a Marxist program and intends to establish closer relations with the Soviet Union, there are no indications that he plans to make Chile a Soviet vassal. Because Chile has strong economic ties with the U. S. and has operated within the U. S. sphere of influence, it is unlikely that Allende would break relations with the U. S. or submit to Soviet domination. Even Castro recommended that Allende move cautiously and not break diplomatic relations with the U. S.

II. Impact of Allende's Election on International Communism

The succession of Allende to the Presidency through the democratic process will encourage Latin American Communists to follow the Soviet line of using non-violent means to come to power. In the minds of many Communists, Allende's election will probably repudiate the Cuban and Chinese revolutionary approach to gaining power. As a consequence, Latin American Communists might abandon guerrilla and terrorist activity and seek power through political participation.

III. Prospects for a Military Coup in the Post-Inaugural Period

Thus far, the major stumbling block to a successful coup has been the lack of a coup climate. Military indecisiveness, public

Approved for Release
July 2000

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apathy, Allende's popular program, and Chile's democratic tradition have all mitigated against a pre-inaugural military takeover. Once elected, however, Allende will have to deal with tremendous administrative and governmental problems brought on by a continued economic decline, and by an increase in political infighting within his coalition. Under these circumstances, Allende will have to maintain good relations with the Armed Forces and will not be able to initiate any major military reorganization.

Nonetheless, it is likely that the economy will continue to decline, and that public dissatisfaction will increase as Allende fails to implement his program. Should this occur, a coup climate will begin to materialize, and the military would have justification for intervening. Thus, like Juan Bosch, Allende's administration may be short lived.